

Dear Community Members:

Howard County Health Department (HCHD) is pleased to report that Howard County COVID-19 data continues to trend in a positive direction. The current positivity rate is 4.25% and the case rate is 14.69 per 100,000. While this data is favorable, we must continue our vigilance and discipline in adhering to wearing facial coverings, physically distancing, hand hygiene, and avoiding large gatherings to remain safe.

To date, 12.9% of Howard County residents have been vaccinated. The State has created many sites where Howard County residents can obtain vaccination. This includes, pharmacies, hospitals, some large medical practices, mass vaccination sites at Six Flags, and the Baltimore Convention Center. All residents are encouraged to register for vaccine at these sites by using the State vaccine locator:

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine#locator>.

Residents in all Phases who are interested in receiving vaccine at HCHD are encouraged to complete our preregistration survey for vaccine at <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Health/MM-Alerts-and-Recalls/COVID-19-Vaccine>. Please note, when you preregister for vaccine, you will not receive information to schedule an appointment until more vaccine is received and we have scheduled clinics.

This week HCHD was allocated 1700 first doses. We are offering vaccine to the following priority groups:

Howard Community College: Wednesday, 2/17: Education, Daycare and Howard County Government emergency personnel and Continuity of Government

Howard County Health Department: Wednesday 2/17: Residents 75 and older

Mobile Integrated Community Health Teams: Adults with developmental disabilities and adults living in one independent living facility will be vaccinated by a team of paramedics and nurses.

This week we are also continuing to administer the second and final dose of the vaccine series to those vaccinated 3 – 4 weeks ago. Please note, if there are weather concerns, you will be notified if your appointment needs to be rescheduled. As a reminder, appointments are required, all individuals must bring ID and documentation of eligibility and arrive no earlier than 15 minutes prior to their appointment time.

Slowly but surely, we are heading in the right direction. Thank you for your continued perseverance, patience, and support.

Maura J. Rossman, MD



Howard County Health Officer